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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Ken Alvord STATION WRC Radio
DATE August 24, 1981 9:10 AM CITY Washington, DC
SUBJECT The Executive Order: Domestic Surveillance

KEN ALVORD: Well, suppose one day you were up there in Saskatoon and a CIA person were to break into your motel room while you were up there and rifle through your stuff because they felt that you were engaged in some activity that might compromise the internal security of the United States. That's one thing.

Suppose you were here in Washington, in your own home, and the same sort of thing happened. That's really the extent of the limits that we're talking about, isn't it, when we talk about allowing intelligence agents to, within the boundaries of the United States, to surveil U.S. citizens.

Now, here's what's going on. Over this past year, we've had several leaked drafts, draft proposals of how to unleash the CIA a little bit and step back a bit from an order that was given under the Carter Administration limiting intelligence agencies to activities pretty much abroad unless -- unless it involved somebody that was one of their contractors or one of their own agents. And they're trying to loosen that leash just a little bit.

I want to see how far you think they ought to loosen it, because that's what's in prospect and that's what all of these leaks are about. They're trial balloons to see what you and I think. Well, let's tell them what we think during this hour. And you tell me who'd you like to see us talk to and what questions you'd like to ask them....

And lest we forget the reason why the restriction was placed, there were those scandals back in the '60s and '70s, and congressional committees finding out that intelligence agencies had spied on Americans, who pretty much were just exercising their right to protest government policy on Vietnam and civil